10th October 1928]

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is asking for an opinion."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" My question, Sir, is whether the Government will recover rent in such cases."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

Land Revenue

Method of better publicity of information to villagers.

* 463 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : With reference to the answer to question No. 315 answered on 8th September 1928, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have now considered how better publicity can be given to any notifications or other matter intended for the information of the villagers, particularly in the West Coast districts ; and

(b) if so, what conclusions they have arrived at thereon regarding this subject?

A. (a) & (b) The Board of Revenue has been asked for a report on the subject.

Legislative

Purchase of books for the Legislative Council Library.

* 464 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the firm from which books are bought for the Legislative Council Library;

(b) whether it is a fact that it is the only firm in Madras from which and through which books can be purchased for the library;

(c) if so, under what orders and what was the practice before;

(d) whether the rates of that firm are higher or lower for books published outside India than any other firm in Madras; or

(e) whether it is possible to get books directly from British or other European or American firms cheaper; and

(f) what endeavours have been made to get books from or through firms outside India at cheaper rates in the past and at present?

A.—(a) Messrs. The Associated Publishers (Madras), Limited, Higginbothams Department, Mount Road.

(b) Yes; unless books are urgently required and can be procured more promptly from another firm in India.

(c) Under the orders of the Government. The practice of purchasing books through the Associated Publishers has been in existence since 1927. Prior to that also books were purchased through a single firm.

(d), (e) & (f) The rates are in accordance with a contract which was entered into after tenders had been called for. The Government accepted what they considered to be the best of the tenders offered. They do not see their way to state the terms contained in other tenders.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" With reference to clauses (*a*) and (*b*), may I know, Sir, under orders of which department of Government these books are obtained from particular firms ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" So far as my information goes, these books are obtained for the Council Office on the orders of the Legislative Department."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Are these matters still under the control of the Finance Department or some other Secretariat Department, or under the control of the President of the Council ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" There is a Committee of the Legislative Council which looks into these matters, and I hope they will be consulted in the purchase of books."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), that 'the practice of purchasing books through the Associated Publishers has been in existence since 1927', may I ask the hon. the Revenue Member whether, Mr. President, your office or yourself were consulted in this matter at any time ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" This purchase of books for the Council Library has all along been made as a part of the purchase of books for Government purposes. If the House Committee makes any suggestion for separate treatment, I am quite sure it will be considered."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*), will the Government be pleased to state whether these tenders were the lowest that they received ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I must ask for notice of that, Sir."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya :—" May I know whether Government are aware that medical books used to be purchased for various schools by tenders ? "

The hon. the President :—" The question does not arise."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know for what period the contract referred to in answer to clauses (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*) was entered into ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" That is a general contract for the purchase of all books required for Government purposes. I am sorry I cannot now say for what period, Sir."

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" For what period, Sir ? Is it for all time ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" No, Sir. I am afraid I must ask for notice to state the period."

Mr. Daniel Thomas :—" With reference to the answer to clauses (*d*), (*e*) and (*f*), may I know what is the present rate per shilling under the subsisting contract ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I must ask for notice."